

Seekonk Veterans' Council			
9.21.2021		7:00pm	Senior Center Activity Room
Meeting called by	Kevin Kugel		
Type of meeting	Seekonk Veterans' Council Meeting, Audio #024		
Chairman	Kevin Kugel		
Audio/Transcriber	James LaFlame		
Attendees	Committee Members: Kevin Kugel (Chair) William Curtis (Vice Chair), Moises Moniz, Russ Pion & Adam Tumlinson Other: James LaFlame (VSO), Adam Petronio (liaison), LaNon Neary & Joseph Raez Absent: David Reis (w/o cause)		
Meeting Minutes			
Discussion	Meeting minutes for August 31st were approved.		
Action Items	Minutes to be sent to Town Clerk and posted on the town website		
Deadline	ASAP		
Agenda Topic			
	VSO Updates: Seekonk Fire Museum		

Seekonk Fire Museum	
Discussion	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Jim was invited to speak at a ceremony for Gold Star Families at the Seekonk Fire Museum. The event was running concurrently with the Celebrate Seekonk event on September 18<sup>th</sup>.</li> <li>2. Senator Feeney and Representative Howitt were also speaking at the ceremony.</li> <li>3. Jim assisted Bill George (Museum President) by providing final discharges of those KIAs whose families would be in attendance. They were included in binders put together for each KIA.</li> <li>4. Most of the families were no longer living in town (most of them in attendance are now in New Hampshire), so Jim's speech included updates on things the council was doing to honor the KIAs; to include upkeep of the individual memorials and the gold star walkway.</li> <li>5. He also mentioned how they read the names of Seekonk's KIAs and rang the fire bell at the Memorial and Veterans' Day ceremonies (which was also done when they read the five names of the KIAs honored at their ceremony).</li> <li>6. The final thing he mentioned the council is doing are the KIA banners that will go up just up the street from where that ceremony took place.</li> <li>7. He concluded by unveiling the banner prototype. Although the prototype is roughly half the size of what the actual banner will be, the families were thrilled with the design of the banner and very thankful for the additional way we are honoring their loved one.</li> </ol>

<b>Agenda Topic</b>			
	<b>VSO Updates: KIA Banners</b>		
<b>Discussion</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Jim spoke at the Board of Selectman meeting on September 15<sup>th</sup> to detail our plans for the KIA banners.</li><li>2. The BOS voted unanimously to accept the \$2,500 donation from the Friends of the Seekonk Veterans Memorial Park for the purchase of the banners.</li><li>3. Jim suggested that we change the text at the bottom of each banner, which had their date of birth and death on the prototype. The proposal would be to have the date they were killed in action, since there was nothing on there to state they were KIAs.</li><li>4. The council agreed, noting it would distinguish those on the banners from all other veterans.</li></ol>		
<b>Action Items</b>		<b>Person Responsible</b>	<b>Deadline</b>
Inform the banner vendor that we have secured the funds to move ahead with the project and update them on the change of the text.		James	ASAP

Agenda Topic		
	Chair Updates: 911 Ceremony and Celebrate Seekonk	
Discussion	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Seekonk's 911 ceremony took place outside of the Seekonk Public Safety Complex.</li><li>2. Kevin, Bill, Jim and Adam P. were in attendance.</li><li>3. Kevin gave a complete rundown of the event for those unable to attend.</li><li>4. Kevin reached out to Chief Isabella to let him know the council is looking to have a presence at town events – and specifically those involving police and fire.</li><li>5. Kevin, Bill, Mo and Jim took part in the Celebrate Seekonk event at the Seekonk Public Library on September 18<sup>th</sup>.</li><li>6. The council's table included flyers for the Holiday Festival (tree fundraiser), Seekonk Veterans' Fall Leaf Clean-Up, a printout of the Seekonk KIA Memorial map and descriptions and the Massachusetts edition of <i>A Time to Honor</i> (stories of service, duty and sacrifice from Vietnam Veterans). The library has our Holiday Festival banner on display.</li><li>7. The small Christmas tree displayed on our table was an attention getter as our table did get more traffic than most.</li><li>8. Mo suggested the best advertising for our event will be when the actual trees are up and decorated.</li><li>9. Jim will purchase display frames and paper weights for the flyers, which would have been helpful that day.</li><li>10. The table skirt was a good purchase and Fast Signs was true to their name in getting it made in time for the event.</li><li>11. Jim talked to the Finance Director about the \$20 donation received at the event. He said it could be put in the VSO gift account without requiring BOS approval.</li></ol>	
Agenda Topic	Tree Fundraiser	

<p>Discussion</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Jim talked to Dave Cabral and Scott Olobri regarding putting rebar in at the memorial park. Russ can provide the rebar at no cost.</li><li>2. They didn't have the irrigation plan, so Jim will check with Mark Drapeau to see if he has that plan.</li><li>3. Bill was in talks with a tree farm that will only cut 5-6 foot trees, he doesn't want to cut 4 footers.</li><li>4. Bill was hoping to talk him down to \$15 a tree, but he was firm on a \$20 price.</li><li>5. The council agreed that \$35 was a fair asking price for us to sell the trees.</li><li>6. Bill will check on getting lights donated from Ocean State Job Lot.</li><li>7. Jim will send out a letter to council members authorizing accepting donations on behalf of the council, to include the town's tax ID number.</li><li>8. The council is looking at December 4<sup>th</sup> as a pickup date for the trees and December 5<sup>th</sup> thru the 12<sup>th</sup> for tree sponsors to come in and decorate.</li><li>9. Kevin will update the Holiday Festival flyer with the newly confirmed information for distribution.</li><li>10. Jim will be able to accept payments for the trees (cash or checks payable to the Town of Seekonk). There was discussion of adding a Treasurer position to the council as it grows.</li></ol>
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Agenda Topic			
	Veterans' Day Ceremony and Rolling Parade		
Discussion	<div><div>1. Confirmed participants for the Veterans' Day ceremony include Representative Howitt, Chaplain Amaral and Poet Margie Reiske.</div><div>2. Jim has heard back from the offices of Senator Feeney and Congressman Auchincloss, both of whom can't commit at this time, but would make every effort to fit us in as they are juggling events in several different towns.</div><div>3. If a music team from the 215<sup>th</sup> Army Band isn't available, Jim will try to secure the Seekonk High School brass ensemble that played for the town's 911 ceremony.</div><div>4. Jim's monthly article for the senior center's newsletter included information on both Veterans' Day events, including his contact information for those wishing to participate in the rolling parade. He will reach out to those who wished to be part of last year's proposed parade.</div><div>5. Parade to start from Briarwood Plaza at 9:00am.</div><div>6. Jim to set up Gold Star Walkway and set up for the ceremony as the parade is taking place. Council members to handle parade logistics.</div></div>		
Action Items		Person Responsible	Deadline
<div><div>1. Map out proposed Rolling Parade route</div><div>2. Contact the Boy Scouts to be uniformed escorts at the ceremony</div><div>3. Secure music for the ceremony</div></div>		<div><div>1. Kevin</div><div>2. Kevin</div><div>3. Jim</div></div>	ASAP
Topic	Adjournment		
Motion made by Adam T. to adjourn, seconded by Russ and voted unanimously			